

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st April 1894

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Māsik"	Calcutta ...	294	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura ...	397	15th April 1894.
3	"Kasipur Nivasi"	Kasipur, Barisál ...	300	12th ditto.
4	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria ...	720	28th March 1894.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Banganivási"	Calcutta ...	8,000	13th April 1894.
6	"Bangavási"	Ditto ...	20,000	14th ditto.
7	"Burdwán Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	310	10th ditto.
8	"Chinsura Vártávala"	Chinsura ...	500	
9	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	2,400	15th ditto.
10	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	950	13th ditto.
11	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Boaha, Rajshahi ...	248	
12	"Hitavádi"	Calcutta ...	3,000	
13	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....
14	"Pratikár"	Ditto ...	608	13th ditto.
15	"Rangpur Dikprakāsh"	Kakinia, Rangpur ...	170	
16	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	800-1,000	11th ditto.
17	"Samaj-o-Sáhitia"	Garibpore, Nadia ...	1,000	
18	"Samaya"	Calcutta ...	4,000	13th ditto.
19	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	4,000	14th ditto.
20	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	.....
21	"Saraswat Patra"	Dacca ...	(300-400)	14th ditto.
22	"Som Prakāsh"	Calcutta ...	800	9th ditto.
23	"Sudhakar"	Ditto ...	2,000	6th and 13th April 1894.
24	"Vikrampur"	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	600	12th April 1894.
<i>Daily.</i>				
25	"Banga Vidyá Prakāshiká"	Calcutta ...	500	16th and 18th April 1894.
26	"Dainik-o-Samāchár Chandriká"	Ditto ...	1,200	12th and 15th to 19th April 1894.
27	"Samvād Prabhákar"	Ditto ...	1,435	16th to 7th ditto.
28	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	13th, 16th, 18th and 19th April 1894.
29	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto ...	3,000	6th, 7th, 11th to 13th and 16th to 19th April 1894.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
30	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca ...	500-600	16th April 1894.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
31	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	500	
32	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Samāchár Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Aryāvarta"	Dinapore ...	750	
34	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	2,500	12th ditto.
35	"Hindi Bangavási"	Ditto ...	10,000	16th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Habul Mateen"	Calcutta ...	.....	3rd and 10th April 1894.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Akhhbar-i-Al Punch"	Bankipore ...	750	
38	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	300	12th April 1894.
39	"General and Gauhariasti"	Ditto ...	410	15th ditto.
40	"Mehre Menawar"	Muzaffarpur ...	150	

No.	Names of newspapers.			Place of publication.		Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
URIYA.							
Monthly.							
41	"Asha "	...	...	Cuttack	...	80	
42	"Pradíp "	...	...	Ditto	...	.....
43	"Samyabadi "	...	...	Ditto	...	.....
44	"Taraka and Subhavártá "	...	...	Ditto	...	.....
45	"Utkalprabhá "	...	...	Mayurbhunj	...	97	
Weekly.							
46	"Dipaka "	...	...	Cuttack	...	.....
47	"Samvad Váhika "	...	...	Balasore	...	203	
48	"Uriya and Navasamvād "	...	...	Ditto	...	420	
49	"Utkal Dipiká "	...	...	Cuttack	...	450	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.							
BENGALI.							
Fortnightly.							
50	"Paridarshak "	...	...	Sylhet	...	480	For the second fortnight of <i>Chaitra</i> , 1300 B.S.
51	"Silchar "	...	...	Silchar	...	250	
52	"Srihattavási "	...	...	Sylhet	...	.....

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 16th April says that a coal mine has been discovered within the dominions of Amir Abdur Rahman, and His Highness has sent for an English miner to work the mine. The time will come when the Amir will have to take England's permission to put on his *paijama*.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 16th, 1894.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The Patna correspondent of the *Hablul Mateen* of the 10th April writes as follows:—

HABUL MATEEN,
April 10th, 1894.

The Inspector of Police, Khaja-Kalan, Patna.

One Muneeruddin Haidar, a Munshi in the Registry Office at Patna, died a natural death at his house in Ludi Katra, and his death was registered at the outpost in that place. But the Inspector of Khaja Kalan stated that he had come to know that the deceased died in the house of a prostitute, Puchee.

It is known that the woman Puchee was in the keeping of the Inspector, but had some time ago turned him out for some unknown reason, and since that time he had been waiting for an opportunity to take vengeance upon her. So, on receiving orders from the Superintendent of Police to investigate the case, he, in company with a Sub-Inspector, broke into the house of the prostitute and exacted from her two thousand rupees and some furniture. They also forced open, without any cause whatever, the locked-up house of Namdar Begum, a widow of the late Nawab of Oudh, while she was away in Matiaburuj, leaving her house in charge of one Syed Ali Akram, and carried away about one thousand rupees in cash and some valuables from her house.

On hearing of this, the Begum submitted a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. In the meantime the Inspector went to Muzaffarpur and brought from that place a sick girl named Sundaree, who, after three days' tutoring, gave her evidence before the Bustee Magistrate, saying that Muneeruddin was put to death by the said Syed Ali Akram. This girl is now dead.

The said Inspector and Sub-Inspector are now trying their best to mislead the Assistant Superintendent of Police who is exerting his influence to find out the real facts of the case.

3. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 12th April has the following:—

SULABH DAINIK,
April 12th, 1894.

Sir Antony MacDonnell on the character of the Indian police.

The other day, while considering the amendment of the Penal Code, Sir Antony MacDonnell freely admitted in Council the worthless and oppressive character of the Indian police. He is also of opinion that so long as the character of the classes of people from which the police service is recruited, remains what it is now, so long the utmost efforts of Government to reform that service will fail. There is, however, no substantial ground for taking this view. It is true that Government more than once attempted to reform the police, but their attempts were at best of a provisional nature. Sir Antony does not probably hold with Macaulay that the natives of this country are morally inferior to the natives of England. If, then, good men can be had for the police service in England, surely good men ought to be available for that service here too. It is true that the majority of those who are appointed to the police service are characterless men, and if Government wants to reform the police it should throw open its ranks to educated men of the respectable classes. No good men can, of course, be available for the lower grades of the service carrying small salaries. But as the officers in the lower ranks have simply to carry out the orders of their superiors, the honesty of the latter will be sufficient to keep them straight. But in its anxiety to preserve its prestige, Government will not set about reforming the police in right earnest. What it does in this matter serves only to make matters worse. Government knows the police to be oppressive and unscrupulous, and yet it goes on increasing its powers and conniving at the misdeeds of the officers employed in it. This

indulgent treatment by Government is producing a demoralising effect on police officers. Sir Antony may content himself with ascribing the shortcomings of the police to the character of the classes from which its officers are recruited, but the writer knows that Government's love of prestige, which leads it to connive at the faults of its police officers, is at the root of the evil.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SANJIVANI,
April 14th, 1894.

4. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th April has heard it rumoured that Mr. K. N. Rai, Officiating Judge of Hooghly, will have to revert to his appointment as Joint-Magistrate of the 24-Parganas. This means that the Anglo-Indians have gained their point. The Government of Bengal is fully cognisant of the abilities of Mr. Rai as a Judicial Officer; and it therefore wanted to make him a *pucca* Judge. But the jealous Anglo-Indians made an appeal to the Government of India against the action of the Provincial Government, and are about to achieve their object of having Mr. Rai removed from the Judgeship. And these are the men who are weeping at India's wrongs!

(d)—Education.

SAMAY,
April 13th, 1894.

5. The *Samay* of the 13th April has the following:—
The Calcutta University. The writer is quite tired of hearing complaints against the Calcutta University. Errors are found every year in the question papers on almost all the subjects. In the last B.A. examination, in an honour paper on mathematics, a portion of a question was not at all printed, and none of the candidates, except one or two who were exceptionally meritorious, could make out what that portion was. In the last B.A. and F.A. papers on physics some questions were put from portions of the text books not appointed to be read.

The University's selection of books for these examinations is also open to objection. In some years the number of books selected is very large, and in some very small. A book containing a few poems of Tennyson and edited by Mr. Rowe has been fixed for the next B. A. examination. There was an older edition of the book, and lest the candidates should not purchase the new edition which has been recently brought out, a few new poems of Tennyson have been inserted in it. One of these new pieces cannot be found elsewhere. The purchase of the new edition has been in this way rendered compulsory. When will these University scandals come to an end?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 15th, 1894.

6. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 18th April says:—
The B.L. examination affair. When on the motion of Mr. Manomohan Ghosh the Senate of the Calcutta University passed its resolution on the subject of the last B.L. examination, the writer expressed his fear that the matter would not end there, but give rise to fresh scandals. Sir Alfred Croft's opposition to the motion led him to think in this way, and he now sees he was right. All the examiners, except one, have refused to re-examine the answer papers of the candidates as requested by the Senate. It is said in some papers that this improper decision of theirs was the result of a conference held by them in the Advocate-General's room in the High Court. It is also said that the examiners had to take this improper step at the *zid* and request of the very person who is at the root of the scandal. If this is true, it certainly reflects great discredit on the University. It is owing to scandalous exhibitions like the present that the University is gradually going down in the estimation of the public. These evasions will not keep up the prestige of the University, and Sir Alfred Croft ought to see this, a masterhand at evasion though he be. The writer will not be sorry if among the candidates who appeared at the last B.L. examination 71 get plucked, or if all the candidates at all the University examinations meet with the same fate, or if the University itself goes to rack and ruin and Western education is banished from the country. If it is the shameful exhibition which the Hindu examiners at the last B.L. examination are making of themselves in this connection that has deeply pained and scandalised the writer.

(e)--Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SUDHAKAR,
April 6th, 1894.

7. In reference to the statement recently made in the *Sulabh Dainik* that Mr. Macpherson, Magistrate of Gaya, intends, with a view of giving effect to the cow-killing circular within the limits of the Gaya Municipality, to pass some municipal bye-laws subject only to the approval of the Divisional Commissioner, the *Sudhakar* of the 6th April writes as follows:—

Is not the Magistrate of Gaya aware of Sir Charles Elliott's reply to the Muhammadan memorial against the cow-killing circular? Indeed, it is difficult to guess the real object of the authorities in this matter. If the Magistrate of Gaya passes bye-laws for enforcing the circular within the Gaya Municipality, all the District Magistrates in Bihar will at once follow his example. The Commissioner of the Patna Division is, therefore, requested not to do anything without consulting the Lieutenant-Governor himself in the matter. It is not reasonable that seeds of quarrel should be unnecessarily sown among the people. The Lieutenant-Governor, too, is requested to take such steps as will enable the Muhammadans to realise the hope of protection and security which His Honour held out to them in his reply. Religion is the very life of the Musalmans, and it is the bounden duty of the ruler to do his best not to interfere with their religious observances in any way.

8. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 10th April says that some one from among the members of the Searsole Raj family should be nominated by Government as Commissioner of the Raniganj Municipality. The writer is at a loss to see why since the death of the late Raja Visvesvara Malia, who used to be nominated as Commissioner by Government, no such favour has up to this time been shown to any member of his family. The family owns one-sixth of the land belonging to the town of Raniganj and, like the Bengal Coal Company, should have a representative on the Municipal Board. Mr. Wells ought to be nominated on behalf of the Company, and Mr. Dela Courneuve on behalf of the local European community. The latter is known for his independence and business habits.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 10th, 1894.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

9. The *Sahachar* of the 11th April says that no impartial man can read without laughing the Government of India's despatch to the Secretary of State on the subject of the Assam disturbances. The world has seen many despots, and even now the best portion of civilised and educated Europe is lying helpless at the feet of despots. The European despots make no secret of their intention, and openly declare that they mean to govern in an absolute spirit. But, unlike them, the Government of India, though the officers under it trample all law under foot, tries to convince the authorities in England and the people here that the administration under it is carried on in accordance with law and the English principles of government. But the attempt to play the despot and at the same time to make people believe the contrary is an impossible task, and Lord Lansdowne so signally failed as a ruler of India simply because he thought that he was able to accomplish this impossibility. Reference is then made to the recent disturbances in Assam, and the firing on the raiyats by order of the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, and the remark is made that Lord Lansdowne's firing circular was first put to the test on this occasion. It is stated in the despatch that the raiyats lent their ears to bad counsels; but who are they that gave them such counsels, and what evidence is there on the point? When did the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang receive the telegram from Calcutta, and when did he communicate its contents to the raiyats? Is it true that the latter repeatedly asked the local authorities to stop the collection of revenue until the orders of the Government of India on their petition were received? Was it proper to increase the assessments so suddenly? Was it not a fact that the zamindars were asked to gradually increase the rents due from their raiyats? Is the reduction of assessments, since ordered, due to a consideration of the merits of the raiyats' memorial, or is it simply a compromise arrived

SAHACHAR,
April 11th, 1894.

at in a haphazard manner by the Government of India and the Chief Commissioner? These and similar other questions ought to be thoroughly sifted, and a Commission is necessary for the purpose, the more so as the case of common raiyats disobeying the orders of Government is absolutely without a precedent in the country.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 15th, 1894.

10. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 15th April has the following:—

The Assam rent despatch.

One cannot say whether the despatch sent by the Government of India to the Secretary of State on the subject of the Assam disturbances will be considered satisfactory by that authority, but, speaking for himself, the writer must say that the document has failed to give him satisfaction. Though for the occurrence of these disturbances the Chief Commissioner of Assam and his subordinate officials must be held principally responsible, some measure of responsibility must also attach to Lord Lansdowne and his Councillors.

The explanation of the disturbances given by the Chief Commissioner, the local Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners and appended to the despatch, is far from satisfactory. In fact, none of the officials from the Deputy Commissioner to the Viceroy has been able to render a satisfactory account of the recent occurrences.

A perusal of the whole official correspondence on this subject leads to the conclusion that it was the sudden and exorbitant enhancement of land revenue in the Assam Valley Districts that created uneasiness among the inhabitants, that the refusal of the Chief Commissioner to listen to their prayers and memorials increased their fear and dissatisfaction and that this fear and dissatisfaction reached their climax owing to the refusal of Lord Lansdowne and his Councillors to hear and decide the appeals of the raiyats in due time. That the revenue was enhanced at a rate which was inequitable and excessive was what the Chief Commissioner was ultimately obliged to admit and the Government of India was unable to deny. The latter has also had to admit that the Chief Commissioner had made undue delay in submitting an explanation, and that owing to such delay the disturbances had assumed serious proportions. Again, it is also clear from the correspondence that the Government of India itself was also to blame for the delay it made in adopting remedial measures. An impartial consideration of the subject cannot but lead the Secretary of State to arrive at this conclusion.

It is the habit of the officials in this country that they never admit themselves in the wrong, but throw the whole blame of any occurrence on the people. This desire on the part of the officials to always exonerate themselves and proclaim others guilty is made patent on the occasion of every disturbance.

Take the case of the cow-slaughter riots. A riot occurs between the Hindus and the Musalmans. Some of the officials encourage the Musalmans and do injustice to the Hindus, while others neglect their duty and fail to adopt remedial measures. But when the riot assumes fearful proportions, and there is fighting attended with slaughter and bloodshed, the officials at first lose their head and find everything in disorder and confusion, but in the end conceal their own shortcomings and throw the whole blame on the people, and specially on the Hindus. And Governors generally, and men like the present Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces in particular, accept the views of the local officials and are thus unable to act with impartiality.

The case has been exactly of this nature as regards the Assam disturbances. The revenue was enhanced at a most inequitable and exorbitant rate, and steps were taken to collect it at that rate. The people lodged complaints and appeals, but finding no redress, got excited. The Anglo-Indian officials can never come anywhere near a policy of leniency, and so they did not care to see why it was that the weak and poor raiyats had got so excited and did not think it necessary to conciliate them. They preferred following a policy of *zubberdustism*, and were anxious to put down the refractory raiyats with the aid of the police and the military. And the result was that they only fanned the flame and aggravated the disturbances.

But India is not England. If it had been, the officials to a man would have been censured and taught a lesson by Parliament for such indiscretion and want of foresight. But such is not the case in India, and the authorities in

this country know only how to show their love for their protégés. They do not know how to protect the people and promote their welfare by following a policy of justice and impartiality, and they are only too anxious to encourage the subordinate officials to grind their subjects.

All the Deputy Commissioners of the Assam Valley, the Commissioner, and the Chief Commissioner himself, have sought to throw the whole blame on the raiyats; and the Viceroy and his Councillors, too, have gone that way. Everything, of course, befitted Lord Lansdowne, but what grieves us to see is that Lord Elgin, who is new to the country, has been obliged, through the evil advice of his Anglo-Indian Councillors and the machinations of interested cliques, to accept their views and act in a manner in which he ought not to have acted.

It is really amusing to find the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup attributing the disturbances to the advice and instigation of the Gossains and others who guide and control the panchayats in Assam. But this opinion, amusing though it may appear to all knowing men, has been accepted as correct by both the Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner.

But all these officials had only one object in view, namely, to mislead the Government of India. Everybody saw that the explanation asked of the local officials would go to the Home Government, which would in all probability be displeased to notice the serious proportions these disturbances had been allowed to take. The Assam officials therefore have done their best to write a most plausible report, and for the purpose of misleading the Home authorities have tried to give to the Assam raiyat the character of a Nihilist.

If Lord Elgin had not been duped by his Anglo-Indian advisers, this reference to the Nihilists contained in the explanation of the Assam officials would have led His Excellency to express his dissatisfaction with them. The new Secretary of State is not acquainted with Indian affairs, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to see through this rhodomontade about the Assam Nihilists. But it is to be hoped that Lord Reay, the new Under-Secretary of State, will be able to explain matters to Mr. Fowler, and that when the subject of these disturbances comes to be discussed in Parliament, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji and others like him will be able to make a true statement of the case.

The cry of rebellion was raised in connection with cow-slaughter, and now it is the cry of Nihilism that is being raised in regard to these revenue disturbances in Assam. And the object is to make the Indians disliked by *khas* Englishmen, to make Englishmen unwilling to condemn Anglo-Indian officials for what they do in this country, to enable Anglo-Indian officials to commit the utmost oppression in this country, and to mislead the British people and British Parliament as to the nature of their oppression by making some such defence of their conduct as the following:—"You do not see what troubles and difficulties are secretly taking place in India. We see them all, and what we are doing to prevent them is approved by sound statesmanship. Do not interfere with our acts, or it will be difficult to maintain the empire." Does not the reader see that it is with this object that there is talk of rebellion and Nihilism in the Assam reports on the recent disturbances? And the Councillors of Lord Lansdowne have deliberately favoured this perfectly baseless theory of Nihilism and rebellion which has been advanced by the Assam officials. Lord Elgin, too, has been obliged to make a dupe of himself.

But the consequences will probably be far from good or desirable. A person labouring under needless suspicion not unoften ends by doing acts which really justify such suspicion. The Indians are not even acquainted with the words Nihilist and Socialist, and have no knowledge of the ways and doings of those sects. The loyal Indian never even dreams of rebellion. But have the Anglo-Indian officials forgotten the fable of the wolf and the shepherd boy? From the cow-slaughter riots in the North-Western Provinces and these disturbances in Assam, the Home Government and Parliament ought to see how the Anglo-Indian officials are conducting themselves in this country and thereby producing popular disaffection, and it behoves all those members of Parliament who take an interest in this country to explain all this to the English public. Assam is the land of tea, and there are many Europeans in its tea gardens. These men possess a thorough knowledge of the province and its people. They know that the panchayats in Assam are not anything like Nihilist societies. It therefore behoves

these European tea planters to send a true report of the recent occurrences to Lord Elgin and to the English public.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 16th, 1894.

11. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 16th April has the following:—

The Assam disturbances.

That on the occasion of the recent disturbances in Assam, the local officials abused the powers conferred on them by the law is clear from the explanation they have themselves given. The Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup himself says that the disturbances were due to the leaders of 'Mels,' the Dulais and Gosvamis, and it is a fact that these Gosvamis were imprisoned and made to dig. In reply to the Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehari Ghosh's question on the subject of the treatment of the Gosvamis, Sir Antony MacDonnell said that as there was no accommodation for prisoners in the jail they were made to dig with the object of constructing huts for their own use. But it is clear from what Mr. McCabe says that it was with the object of breaking the opposition against the assessment that the Gosvamis were arrested, sent to jail and employed to dig. The writer sees all this, and Lord Elgin, too, ought to have seen it. It is now the duty of the native public and of the public bodies in the country to explain all this to Lord Elgin as well as to Mr. Fowler, Lord Reay, the British public and Parliament. How is it that a public meeting is not being held at the Town Hall?

SULABH DAINIK,
April 16th, 1894.

12. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 16th April says that though the officials

The Assam disturbances.

concerned have done their best to throw the whole blame of the Assam riots on the people, it is clear that the unfortunate events were brought about solely by their own short-sightedness. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang has admitted that he did not see any weapons, not even *lathis*, in the hands of the mob, and that there was nothing in their attitude which betokened danger, and yet the official explanation is that the attitude of the mob was of a threatening nature, and the authorities opened fire in self-defence.

The raiyats had most probably assembled for the purpose of laying their grievances before the Deputy Commissioner, or to see how he meant to dispose of the distrained property of some among them. And if they met with this object they certainly did nothing very wrong. But what authority had the Deputy Commissioner to send an armed police force for making a distraint of property?

Mr. McCabe's action in Kamrup shows that Mr. Anderson, too, could have averted a catastrophe by softening the minds of the raiyats by sweet words. The comparison drawn by Mr. McCabe between Assamese raiyats and European Nihilists has astounded the writer. The Government of India has certainly done wrong to uphold the prestige of the Assam officials at any cost.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 19th, 1894.

13. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 19th April has the following:—

Assam affairs.

Is not Mr. Ward, Chief Commissioner of Assam, to blame for the disturbances, and were they not brought about by Lord Lansdowne's thoughtlessness? The Chief Commissioner of Assam and the Viceroy of India are very high officials, and there is no one in the British empire who can call them to account for what they do. But there is God above. He will punish them according to their deserts. So far as the writer can see, Mr. Ward and Lord Lansdowne are wholly to blame for the affair, and he humbly asks Parliament to sit in judgment on their conduct. They do not deserve to be called rulers who, under the pretext of ruling, bring about disturbances of the peace. Nay, they are enemies of the country which they rule. Now, to consider the case of Mr. Ward. His offence is of a very grave nature. Why did he increase the assessments so much, without paying the least heed to the probable consequences of the measure? Was it not utter lawlessness on the part of Mr. Ward to do so? As for Lord Lansdowne, it is doubtful whether the waters of the seven seas will be sufficient to wash away the stain which he has brought upon himself by his administration of India. Alarmed at the sudden increase of rent, the raiyats repeatedly applied to Mr. Ward for redress, but he paid no heed to their prayer. They next held public meetings with the object of drawing his attention to their complaints, but with no better success. They at last appealed to Lord Lansdowne, but their appeal could not disturb His Lordship's sleep. So they grew desperate and came into collision with the authorities. Thus *praja sakti* (power of the

people) set *raja sakti* (power of the Sovereign) at naught, and for this undesirable result Mr. Ward and Lord Lansdowne are responsible. But for these men, it would have been simply impossible for a weak *praja sakti* to stand against the all-powerful British Raj. The officials say that Lord Lansdowne's telegraphic order reducing the assessment was received on the 27th January last and immediately circulated among the raiyats. But if this had been the case, there would have been no riot at Mangaldahi on the 28th January. Lord Lansdowne has stated in his official explanation that he waited for the Chief Commissioner's report before disposing of the raiyats' memorial. If so, why was that report so late in coming, and why did he not send a *takeed* to Mr. Ward to hasten it? The fact is that Lord Lansdowne had no sense of duty, and the authorities in England should not have sent him out to this country as Governor-General. If Burke had been now living, and if the present Home Government had been as liberal as the Government of the time of Burke, Lord Lansdowne would have had to exculpate himself before Parliament on bended knees. The Government despatch on the subject of the disturbances is not at all satisfactory. The Government of India has been guilty of a serious offence, and it has aggravated that offence by throwing the entire guilt on the respectable people of Assam. The despatch has painted the Gosvamis and other respectable people of Assam in Nihilist colours. But did not the tea planters of Assam oppose the assessment, and is Government prepared to call them too Nihilists?

The new Regulation of the Assam Government requiring people to take the Deputy Commissioner's permission before transferring or mortgaging their holdings is a very hard one and will increase the dissatisfaction prevailing among them. The rule requiring them to maintain, at the risk of having their *puttas* cancelled, the boundaries of their lands will also greatly inconvenience them. Moreover, as the Government survey maps are sufficient for the purpose of ascertaining the boundaries of the different holdings, this rule is wholly unnecessary. Again, Government has reserved to itself the power of increasing at will the assessments of town lands and of lands situate near forts. This reservation of power is also objectionable and may lead to another riot. Government should therefore be on its guard to prevent any disturbances that may be attempted. The people of Assam have held public meetings with the object of protesting against the above regulations, and it is hoped that Lord Elgin will deal with the regulations after personally inspecting the condition of the people of Assam. The people's only hope lies in the fact that Lord Lansdowne is no longer in India and Mr. Ward has also in a manner disappeared from Assam. Is not a permanent settlement possible in Assam?

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

14. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 10th April says that the station sheds along the Nalhati-Azimganj line are very badly built and contain no waiting accommodation for passengers. Again, there being no fencing along the line, accidents to cattle are frequent. Government was more than once asked to supply a fencing to the line, but it will not incur any expenditure for the purpose. The writer has learnt that as the owners of cattle killed on the line fear to claim the carcasses, Government sells them by auction and appropriates the proceeds. It is very desirable that some one should put a question in Council about the number of cattle killed on the line last year, and that some one of the public bodies in the country should agitate the subject with the object of securing a fencing for the line.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
April 10th, 1894.

(h)—*General.*

15. Referring to the diversion of the Famine Fund to the purposes of general administration, the *Bangavasi* of the 7th April writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
April 7th, 1894.

Now our only prayer to the Sovereign or to the officials who are her representatives is that they may no longer deceive us, the Indians, by the wiles of English diplomacy. They are our rulers, and we are their subjects. And so long as life is left to us, and even a drop of blood is left in our bodies, and so long as we possess the necessary means, so long are we bound by every consideration of justice, *dharma* and worldly prudence to obey their orders, and we shall obey them even at the risk of our lives. Therefore it is that we

say, my Lords! deal with us in a frank and straightforward manner, and take every possible care that nothing comes to our knowledge which may have the effect of making us distrust our rulers or feel disrespect for them. Do not tell us your reason for doing a thing; command us according to your wish and pleasure, and we shall obey your commands to the best of our power and ability. Truly, my Lords, the mazes of your politics have made our position one of very grave danger. We are bewildered, and we do not see whether in the predicament in which we now find ourselves we shall by any word or act of ours bring difficulties on ourselves. Hence it is that we say again, do not teach us the pride of independence; and a subject people as we are, treat us only as a subject people ought to be treated.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 7th, 1894.

16. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 7th April has the following on the exclusion of imported cotton goods from the scope of the Tariff Act:—

The question of the cotton duties. What is the good of keeping a mock Viceroy and maintaining a sham Legislative Council, or what is the necessity of having any public opinion, if the prayer of so many men, and even the recommendation of the Indian Government, have to be disregarded at the bidding of one person—the Secretary of State for India? As the Secretary of State is the sole arbiter of India's destiny, let all these offices and institutions be abolished, and let that officer alone be made the sole master of this country. We have always expressed the hope that the Government of India, the Secretary of State, and the Parliament will between them do what may appear good for India, but it now seems that the Secretary of State alone is all in all, and that the other two are nobodies. In what an inauspicious moment was the office of Secretary of State for India created and Lord Kimberley appointed Secretary of State.

It was expected that with the advancement to power of Mr. Fowler, the principles of Lord Kimberley's administration of India would cease to receive support or encouragement. But Ravan became a Raksasa through his maternal grandfather's fault. And though Mr. Fowler may be the very incarnation of justice and mercy, still by virtue of his office he will have to act like Lord Kimberley. This is the first time that we have seen a person of noble birth and distinguished career who has made a reputation for himself conduct himself in this way. Shame! Government has done lots of improper things to humour Manchester. It is going to appropriate to its own purposes the Famine Fund which Lord Lytton solemnly swore would only be spent on famine relief. There could not be a more unrighteous proceeding than this. The Government is the very incarnation of *dharma*, and the Sovereign we look upon as a god. But is it god-like to break a promise, to act with partiality, to incur sin by doing wrong? The Provincial revenue is not sufficient to meet the Provincial expenditure, and yet the Government of India is enforcing retrenchment in the case of such expenditure and desiring to appropriate the savings to itself. But it has not the courage to touch the pockets of the Manchester merchants. O English rulers, is all your courage and prowess then reserved for these weak and innocent Indians?

If Manchester must be exempted, exempt it and say so plainly. Exempt it and say that you have done so for the sake of Manchester's votes. Exempt it, for you lack courage and strength of mind. State the true grounds of your action, and we shall hear and remain quiet. But you say Manchester is being exempted in the interest of India. Why this trickery, hypocrisy and double-dealing? Well does India understand her own interests. The Indians are not children that they require to be taught what is good for them. There is no use your dry-nursing them, playing the rôle of Putana (the female demon, who disguised herself as a loving nurse and came to kill the god Krishna, but was killed by him). Why do you talk of the cotton duties as likely to cause hardship to the Indians? If hardship there be, we will suffer it; if misery must be suffered, we will suffer it. We shall not call you to help us out of our difficulty. Why, then, do you trouble yourselves with other people's affairs? Or is it that self-interest requires you to make use of such pleas? Fie on your statesmanship! If the statesmanship that teaches such lessons as these were for ever cast in the depths of the sea, we should lose nothing by it. Secretary of State! do you not see that this time it is not the Indians alone, but even Englishmen, who have come to their senses and are disapproving

of your action? The whole Anglo-Indian community are condemning it. Even now remove this reproach, and take the load of this infamy off your head, and pay heed to righteousness. You are engaged in doing good to India. Try to do what will really benefit her. In weal and woe, under your rule, India is doing well, and does not complain. Do not therefore do wrong in this oppressed country. To show mercy to the oppressed is true greatness. England has not lost that greatness. Why then do you act like an enemy? Do grant this prayer of these thirty crores of Indians and impose a tax on Manchester piece-goods and yarns, and thereby leave free for yourselves the path of righteousness. If you do this your fame will fill the four quarters of heaven.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 11th, 1894.

17. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th April says that the Secretary of State has not done well in taking away the Small Cause Courts Act Amendment Bill from the hands of the Government of India. If he is to do everything in relation to the administration of India, what is the use of the Viceroy and his Councillors? The writer strongly objects to the Secretary of State's undue interference with the Indian administration. His interference with the progress of the Bill in question has materially affected the independence of the Government of India. It is really necessary that the way in which the administration of India is at present carried on should undergo a radical change; otherwise the people of India will be very soon left without any rights and privileges, and the Secretary of State's will become the one law for the empire. If the existing state of things continues, the administration of India will be soon reduced to an absolute despotism. It is to be therefore hoped that Parliament will see its way to curtailing the all-absorbing powers of the Secretary of State.

18. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th April has the following :—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 12th, 1894.

The Secretaryships. The *Bengal Times* of Dacca says that on the recommendation of Lord Ripon, Lord Elgin is about to appoint Mr. Cotton, and not Mr. Nolan, as Home Secretary, and that Mr. Cotton's post will be given either to Mr. Forbes or to Mr. Luttmann-Johnson. But the Home Secretaryship ought to go to Mr. Nolan, for, without being inferior to Mr. Cotton in ability, he is by far Mr. Cotton's superior in the qualities of the heart. The writer will be sorry to see Mr. Forbes appointed to the Bengal Chief Secretaryship, for he is not a very good man. Mr. Luttmann-Johnson is a better man than Mr. Forbes.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

19. The same paper says that, though Mr. R. C. Dutt has earned a great reputation as a District Magistrate, and is held in high esteem even by many Europeans, the *Englishman* newspaper is dissatisfied with his appointment to the Burdwan Commissionership, because European Civilians will have to be subordinate to him. Some years ago it was proposed to appoint Babu Jagadis Nath Rai, of the Police Department, as District Superintendent of Police, Hooghly. But the proposal had to be given up at the request of some Europeans. The same thing happened when it was proposed to make Babu Madhav Chandra Rai Executive Engineer of Hooghly. But Babu Jagadis Chandra afterwards gained the esteem of several Europeans; and Babu Madhav Chandra has since risen to a post in which he has many Europeans as his subordinates. The writer has no doubt that the *Englishman's* objection notwithstanding, Mr. Dutt's appointment to the Commissionership will not be demurred to by the Europeans in service. When the indigo-planters of Bihar gave an entertainment to Sir Ashley Eden, they wanted to exclude Mr. B. L. Gupta from the party. But Sir Ashley distinctly told them that as both he and Mr. Gupta were members of the same service, he would not accept their invitation if Mr. Gupta was not invited. This reply brought the planters to their senses, and they invited Mr. Gupta. And will not this bring the *Englishman* too to its senses?

20. Referring to the Town Hall meeting convened to protest against the exemption of cotton goods from the Indian import tariff, the *Sanjivani* of the 14th April says that it is a matter of congratulation that the meeting was not

SANJIVANI,
April 14th, 1894.

The Anglo-Indians on the question of the cotton duties.

attended by anybody except a few native zamindars and European merchants. The Anglo-Indians have all of a sudden become the staunchest friends of the natives, and seem to be devoting their days and nights to furthering the interests of the latter. From the first the writer suspected some mystery in this, and facts now prove that his suspicions were not unfounded. The Chesneys—father and son—the editor of the *Englishman*, and Mr. Clarke who conducted himself as one of the stoutest enemies of the natives during the Ilbert Bill controversy, are now all posing as their friends, and are incessantly weeping at India's wrongs. This naturally reminds one of the wailings of a cat or a heron at the death of a fish. Oh, that Keswick and Branson were present to complete the drama! For himself, the writer was not taken in by the deceptive sympathy evinced by the Anglo-Indians, and he was the first to warn his countrymen not to be deceived by the magic practised upon them by the Anglo-Indians. And he is now glad to see the *Indian Mirror* taking the same view of the matter and giving the same warning to its countrymen.

Sir George Chesney, the father of the present Editor of the *Pioneer*, is now a member of Parliament and belongs to the Conservative party. This gentleman is now posing as one of India's friends in Parliament. He wants to show that the Liberal Ministry, in seeking its own interest by exempting Manchester goods from the tariff, has done a grave injustice to India. "The world may go to rack and ruin, but justice must reign unfettered"—these are words which do not certainly come with a good grace from the Chesneys, who are bent solely on promoting the interests of their own countrymen. But if, after all, the Chesneys do really mean to defend the interests of the natives, why do they not condemn the grant of exchange compensation allowance to the European officials, which is being unanimously protested against by the native community? But neither Sir George, who served for a long time in India and has consequently numberless friends among the officials, nor his son, the Editor of the *Pioneer*, whose staff of writers consists mainly of the Civil and Military officers of Government, can dare do a thing which will injure their friends. The speakers at the Town Hall meeting, too, though they cried out at the top of their voice against the action of Government in regard to the tariff, did not speak a word in condemnation of the exchange compensation allowance.

21. The same paper thus criticises Mr. Anderson's report on the Darrang riot in Assam:—

The Assam rent disturbance.

The loss of life which took place at Patharughat in the Darrang district was due solely to the orders of Mr. Anderson. And it must be said that the cowardly action of Mr. Ransom in calling out the volunteers when he heard of raiyats' meetings alarmed the latter and drove them to do what illegal acts they may have been subsequently guilty of. The writer also fails to see what there was in the notice of which Mr. Anderson speaks which was calculated to frighten him. There was nothing in the language of the notice calculated to bring about a riot or disturbance.

On the 28th January, Mr. Anderson sent a tahsildar in company with Mr. Berington and escorted by an armed police force, to realise rent by distraint of the raiyats' property. No one will deny that Mr. Anderson acted most stupidly in sending an armed police force to realise rent when the raiyats were already in a state of excitement caused by a fear for their lives in consequence of Mr. Ransom's action in calling out the volunteers, and at the Deputy Commissioner's arrival at Pathoraghat with sepoys and the police. Government ought to carefully examine this action of Mr. Anderson's.

Mr. Anderson has himself admitted that the raiyats did not come with the object of rioting; and it is clear from the notice which Mr. Anderson took down from the tree that they had assembled with the sole object of representing their grievances. Was it not, under these circumstances, a highly unlawful action on the part of the authorities to fire on the raiyats simply because they refused to disperse? It is perfectly clear that the Deputy Commissioner wantonly excited the raiyats by making repeated attacks upon them. It is he, therefore, who is solely responsible for the disturbance.

Government has not listened to the writer's request to appoint a commission to enquire into the circumstances of the riots, but has exonerated Mr. Anderson from all blame on his *ex-parte* evidence, without calling for any

explanation from the raiyats. It is to be hoped that the Viceroy will yet read the papers relating to the case and do justice in the matter.

22. The same paper has heard that in consequence of the temporary appointment of Mr. R. C. Dutt to the Commissionership of the Burdwan Division, all European Magistrates and Joint-Magistrates employed in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, and Burdwan have applied for leave. This race-feeling in Englishmen is a stain on their character, and it is hoped that Government will not prove itself weak enough to encourage it. It is now clear that it is this unwillingness of the European civilians to serve under native civilians that led them to oppose the proposal about simultaneous Civil Service examinations in England and India, and that Lord Lansdowne opposed that proposal for the purpose of pleasing the European civilians. The Liberal party in England ought to mark the attitude of the Anglo-Indian civilians on the present occasion, for they will find their knowledge of it useful to them hereafter. Government will incur very great blame if it encourages this race-feeling in the Anglo-Indian officials.

SANJIVANI,
April 14th, 1894.

23. The *Bangavasi* of the 14th April has the following:—

Lord Elgin on the hill exodus. In his reply to the address of the Simla Municipality, Lord Elgin said that the annual exodus to the hills is made not for pleasure's sake but for the sake of health, which is an essential requisite in those who have to govern the country. No loyal subject will object to the exodus if it is necessary for the health of the Viceroy. But is it not also His Excellency's duty to take notice of the hardship which the exodus causes to the people? Before staying in the plains in summer is condemned, a trial ought to be given to it, for, so far as experience goes, such stay has not been found injurious to health. But granting that residence in the plains in summer is injurious to the health of the Viceroy, where, it may still be asked, is the necessity of all the Viceroy's offices going up with him?

BANGAVASI,
April 14th, 1894.

24. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 15th April says that there is apparently no one to attend to the requirements of the post offices in the mufassal. On one occasion, a postmaster in charge of the post office at Nawabganj in the district of Dacca had to work himself to death because his repeated applications to the authorities to be relieved of his duties on account of ill-health remained unanswered. The post office room and the quarters of the postmaster attached to it are in a state of disrepair, not having been repaired last year. It is now April, and yet the repair of the post office room has not been taken in hand.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 15th, 1894.

25. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 16th April says that considering that the imposition of cotton duties must lead to the levy of a corresponding duty on all cotton fabrics manufactured in the country, to the detriment of its cotton industry, one fails to understand how the leaders of the native community are making common cause with Anglo-Indian merchants in the matter of the exemption of cotton goods from the tariff. Those leaders are probably not seeing that they are being used as mere toys by the English merchants; for while they have been induced to join in the protest against the exemption of cotton goods, not a single European has yet raised his voice against the injustice done to the people of the country by the granting of exchange compensation to European officers, or against the misappropriation of the Famine Fund. The natives have long acted as they have been bid by the Anglo-Indians, and it is time they tried to act independently. Let them help the Anglo-Indians if the Anglo-Indians help them in return.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 16th, 1894.

26. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 16th April does not quite understand how Sir Charles Elliott came to appoint Mr. Radice as Magistrate of Mymensingh, in the face of Sir Antony MacDonnell's order that his promotion should be stopped for one year, and when that year has not yet been completed. It is the popular belief that Sir Charles promoted Mr. Radice in revenge for the rebuke administered to him.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 16th, 1894.

by Sir Antony in the Viceroy's Council. It is said that the Government of India has called for an explanation from Sir Charles Elliott, and it is to be hoped that Sir Charles will be able to satisfy the Government of India.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
April 12th, 1894.

27. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 12th April says that Government knows well that all the past disturbances between Hindus and Musalmans were owing to aggressive conduct on the part of Hindu mobs assisted by educated Hindus. In order to put down all such quarrels Government therefore thought it necessary to amend the Criminal Procedure Code. And the amendment effected has the full support of the Musalman community.

PRATIKA R,
April 13th, 1894.

28. The *Pratihar* of the 13th April says that the present agitation relates only to *debottar* properties attached to temples like that at Tarakeswar, and which do not follow the ordinary law of succession. These properties can be called public only in so far as the Hindu community have an interest in them, but they are not public property in the sense in which a town hall in a municipal town is public property. And the Hindu community itself is not yet certain about the extent of its interest in public properties, all it knows about them being that they are not the private property of the *mohantas*. But although certain temple properties are being misused, the Hindu community will not easily consent to an alien Government's interfering in their management. It is therefore hoped that Government will come to no hasty decision in the matter.

SANJIVANI,
April 14th, 1894.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th April has the following:—

A rule under the Arms Act. Government has disarmed the people of India lest they should rise against it. But there would have been no ground for such fear if Government had ruled the country with justice and impartiality. It was Lord Lytton who passed a Press Act and an Arms Act. The Press Act was subsequently repealed by Lord Ripon, but the rigour of the other Act has gone on increasing, leaving the people so helpless that they cannot protect themselves even against the ravages of wild animals. The Government of the present day has taken advantage of the quarrels between Hindus and Musalmans to still further increase the rigour of the Arms Act, and has ruled that no license-vendor of fire-arms should sell any fire-arm, bullets or powder to anybody without the written permission of the Magistrate of the district, and that no such vendor shall sell more than 3lbs. of powder without such written permission. The rule affects only the natives, and so all Europeans and Eurasians shall be at liberty to purchase and keep in possession any number of firearms and any quantity of powder and bullets. This shows how Government distrusts the natives. It is a matter of regret that Government does not see the plain truth that distrust engenders faithlessness, and that the distrust of a subject people leads to harm both for the Sovereign and the subject. As a matter of fact, it is in consequence of such distrust that the British Government is losing the devotion and loyalty of its Indian subjects.

The increased rigour of the Arms Act will, it is true, prevent the people from keeping fire-arms in their possession, but that will not prevent them from engaging in quarrels. It should be the object of a wise Government to put a stop to quarrels among its subjects, but not to leave them at the tender mercies of wild beasts.

The rule in question will practically deprive the people of all fire-arms, for the Magistrates, who are already only too reluctant to grant licenses, will henceforward seldom grant them. The writer is therefore strongly opposed to the rule, and he requests his countrymen to agitate against it. The Government in this country does not like that Parliament should at every step interfere with its work, but it does things in a manner which leaves Parliament no alternative but to interfere. While the country is asking for a relaxation of the rigour of the Arms Act, the Government has seen fit to increase that rigour.

30. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 15th April approves of the proposed legislation for the mitigation of the rigours of the Revenue Sale Law, and offers the following suggestions on the subject:—

The Revenue Sale Law Amendment Bill.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 15th, 1894.

1. Raiyats whose holdings are sold by auction for arrears of rent can recover the same by paying within 30 days from the date of the auction the zamindar's due and 5 per cent. of the money paid by the purchaser. This law, which applies to all auction sales in execution of decrees of Civil Courts, should be made applicable also to sales of estates for arrears of revenue.

2. Zamindars should also be permitted to pay the arrears of revenue up to the time immediately preceding the auction. And, if necessary, Government may, in such cases, require the defaulters to pay as fine one-sixth or one-eighth of the revenue due from them.

3. The law relating to the sale of lands for the realisation of Government dues other than revenue should be wholly changed. The sale of lands for which cesses are paid jointly by a number of co-owners for the default of any one among them now causes endless trouble to purchasers. This is not as it should be. The sales in such cases should be governed either by the sections of the Civil Procedure Code or by a separate law enacted for the purpose.

4. The dates of auction for arrears of revenue should be fixed once for all.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

31. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th April says that great distress prevails in the Tippera and Faridpur districts, and if help is not speedily given, large numbers of people will die of starvation. In the Tippera district the distress is most acute in Nachhirnagar and the adjoining villages.

Distress in the Tippera and Faridpur districts.

SANJIVANI,
April 14th, 1894.

As for the distress in the Faridpur district, the writer has received a communication from Babu Kasi Chandra Ghosal, who has been sent by the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj to ascertain its extent. According to this correspondent, one Iswar Chandra Das of Jamulia has died of starvation. In the first stages of the distress he managed to procure food for his family by mortgaging what little landed property he had. Then the family took to the paddy-husking business started by Government, and this enabled them to keep body and soul together. But the sudden stoppage of that work left them quite helpless, and being respectable people, they could not go about begging in hats, bazars and other public places. What little the family got by begging in the village was given to the children and the women to eat. So Iswar Chandra himself starved several days and then died.

The correspondent met a young widow living in the same house with the above family who also was suffering the greatest distress, being able to procure a meal at intervals of two or three days. A gentleman of Kotalipara committed suicide because he found it too much to witness the sufferings of his family and could not bear the insults offered by his creditors. The women are going about almost naked, not even the young among them having enough to make up a decent clothing: and to make matters worse, cattle are dying in large numbers of an epidemic disease.

Though the distress is so severe, Government has ordered that those who took loans of rice when the husking business was going on, should at once pay off their debts. This order will lead to great oppression of the people, especially as it is said that the dues will be collected with the aid of the police. It is to be hoped that the Collector will defer the collection of these debts.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

32. Referring to the remarks made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of cow-slaughter riots during the passage of the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill through the Council, the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 6th

Sir Charles Elliott on the cow-slaughter question.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 6th, 1894.

April writes as follows:—

Where is the justification for His Honour's remark that in these riots it is the Hindus who attack and assault the Musalmans? Has Sir Charles Elliott found any evidence up to this time that will support his statement? The

Hindus wanted a Riot Commission, but their prayer was refused by Government, and the idea of a commission was received with extreme disfavour by Sir Charles Crosthwaite. Considering that Government was strongly opposed to the appointment of a commission, that the conclusions at which it arrived by placing its reliance on the statement of one of the parties were extremely improper and illiberal, and that no impartial enquiry was at all granted by it, it certainly behoved Government to remain silent in the matter, and it was not proper for the Lieutenant-Governor to make such a sorry exhibition of himself by indulging as he did in such incoherent talk.

While His Honour is unable to furnish any proofs in support of the charges which he has brought against the Hindus, there is abundant evidence to disprove those charges. The riots occurred in Bihar, and it was the Hindus who were convicted by the local officials of rioting and sent to jail. But when these riot cases came on for trial before the High Court, all the Hindu accused were acquitted, and the conclusion that was come to by the impartial Judges of that Court was that it was the Musalmans who were guilty.

Again, the testimony of all non-official Europeans in Bihar is unanimous that the riots were due to the action of the Musalmans in wantonly attacking the religion of the Hindus. The Lieutenant-Governor may disbelieve native testimony, but can he pooh-pooh European evidence? All this shows that His Honour's view of these riots is an utterly erroneous one.

Why did not Government grant the prayer of the Hindus for the appointment of a commission? Is not that man held guilty who opposes an enquiry? What does Government say to this? Again, the fact that those who were convicted and punished by the local officials were acquitted by the High Court has its meaning. Does Sir Charles Elliott mean to say that the cases were not properly tried in the High Court? And there is yet another consideration. Sir Antony MacDonnell too was of opinion that the Hindus were not guilty, and it was for the purpose of ascertaining the truth about these riots that he deputed Mr. LeMesurier to hold a local and secret enquiry. Though the result of the enquiries made by that officer has not been given to the public, still a letter that has appeared in the *Morning Post* newspaper contains the plain statement that the Musalmans were the aggressors in these riots. And, lastly, the cow-killing circular issued by His Honour himself blames that community for the occurrence of the recent troubles in Bihar. Why did the Lieutenant-Governor then make himself so ridiculous by bringing these charges against the Hindus?

Lord of Bengal, you ought to know that you are the arbiter of the destinies of seven crores of people. These seven crores live and die at your bidding. But will your honour and dignity be maintained in the estimation of your subjects if you bring such groundless charges against them? If you have lost their confidence as a ruler, you are by no means worthy of your high position. There is not in you the dignity of your high office. "Divide and rule" is your policy. But do you really on that account wish to introduce that policy in this country? Nobody has been yet able to say that the Hindus were the first to attack the Musalmans. But Lieutenant-Governor! you have injured the dignity of your office by saying this. It was not wise of you to express such an opinion on the strength of only the official papers. But then, great as you are, you have done well by saying what you have said.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 10th, 1894.

33. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 10th April says that the Hon'ble

The Lieutenant-Governor on the
Hindus.

Dr. Rasbehari Ghosh's well-reasoned remarks on the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code not having met with the Lieutenant Governor's approval, His Honour in reply roundly abused the entire Hindu population of the country. But it is a matter of regret that while abusing them, His Honour forgot that the amendment was meant for all sections of the people and not for Hindus alone. It may be that the amendment was brought forward with the sole object of keeping the Hindus in check, but as there was no express statement to that effect, Sir Charles Elliott should not have given out the secret. The Lieutenant-Governor said that the amendment would not be a dead-letter, and that he would take care to work it with the object of preventing Hindus from conspiring against Musulmans under the cloak of religion.

Now, the duties and responsibilities attaching to the office of Lieutenant-Governor are of a very grave nature, and it ill-befits a Lieutenant-Governor to make statements which are not based on sufficient evidence. Sir Charles has brought a serious charge against the Hindus, but can he bring forward sufficient evidence to substantiate it? Considering that the highest courts in the land have acquitted the Hindus of the charge of having got up a conspiracy against the Musalmans, it was very improper for one holding the exalted office of Lieutenant-Governor to reiterate that charge against them. Hindus are not conspirators, and they get excited only at the improper conduct of the Musalmans towards them. Sir Antony MacDonnell knew this and judging from his cow-killing circular, Sir Charles Elliott, too, cannot be said not to know it. This being the case, His Honour alone can say what led him to make his accusation against the Hindus. While abusing the Hindus, Sir Charles should have remembered that it was they that asked for a commission to enquire into the recent cow-killing riots, but that their prayer was not granted. Again, though the report of Mr. LeMesurier, who was deputed by Sir Antony MacDonnell to enquire into the cow-slaughter riots in Bihar has not been made public, his letter addressed to a friend, which was published in the *Morning Post* newspaper, shows that he held the Musalmans solely responsible for the disturbances.

34. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 12th April says that Mr. Silcock, Deputy Commissioner of Jhelam, insulted Mr. Bakshi Ram Singh, C.E., District Engineer of Jhelam, because the latter did not salute him while passing by on horseback.

A native officer insulted by a European officer.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 12th, 1894.

35. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th April reproduces in Bengali what the *Hindu Patriot* says about Mr. Skrine's doings in Bihar, and specially in connection with the *Barayari Puja* at Bhagalpur, and says that capricious and high-handed actions are nothing new in him, but have already gained him quite a notoriety. He is, however, Sir Charles Elliott's biographer, and though censured by Sir Antony MacDonnell, has been recently rewarded by Sir Charles. How, under circumstances like these, does the *Hindu Patriot* expect that Mr. Skrine will correct himself?

Mr. Skrine.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 12th, 1894.

36. The *Vikrampur* of the 12th April says that though the authorities of the Dufferin Fund have made the best arrangements in the zanana hospitals for the treatment of zanana patients, their attempts to secure such patients have not been crowned with success, nor is there any prospect of their ever being so. The chief obstacle in the way of the success of the movement is that native women having any claim to respectability will rather die in pain and sickness than throw off their modesty and come out of the *purdah* in order to be treated in hospitals. The lady doctors entertained by the fund are also seldom called in to pay private visits, because people prefer to call in male practitioners having a wider reputation in the profession than lady doctors, even when the patient to be treated is a female.

VIKRAMPUR,
April 12th, 1894.

The Lady Dufferin movement.

There is one way, however, in which the fund may yet do some service to the country. It is a well-known fact that trained midwives are seldom met with in the mufassal. It may therefore be arranged that the lady doctors attached to the Dufferin hospitals shall by turns visit the mufassal and give the untrained midwives, who now carry on the profession, as much scientific training as may be possible. In the present state of female education in the mufassal it cannot be expected that respectable women should come forward to undergo a regular course of training in midwifery. For the present therefore the lady doctors should be content to work with such material as is presented by the untrained midwives who now carry on the profession.

The authorities of the Dufferin Fund will earn the gratitude of the people, and will have to a certain extent achieved the object of the movement, if they can carry out this plan.

In conclusion, the writer dwells upon the inconvenience which is felt by the people of Vikrampur in the Dacca district in consequence of the absence of trained midwives in the place, and requests the members of the Vikrampur Sammilani Sabha, who are all men of education and position in life, to try to

get some help from the Dufferin Fund in securing some scientific training for the midwives of Vikrampur. The writer also requests other public bodies in the mufassal to make a move in the same direction.

KASHIURNIVASI,
April 12th, 1894.

37. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 12th April says that the people of East Bengal have not yet forgotten the name of the late Mr. C. T. Buckland, for a long time Commissioner of the Dacca Division. Having entered the Bengal Civil Service in 1844, he passed a goodly portion of his life in this country. In his official capacity he freely mixed with the people and earned quite a reputation by his work. In old age he retired from the service on pension, and having spent the closing days of his life in England, came by his death in March last. May his soul rest in peace!

BANGAVASI,
April 14th, 1894.

38. A correspondent of the *Bangacasi* of the 14th April says that lately some eight or ten men have been killed by a tiger in the villages within the jurisdiction of the Dulai thana in the Pabna district, and that at about mid-day of the 2nd April last a lad of sixteen was killed by a tiger in Golabari within the jurisdiction of the same thana. The *shikari* in the employ of the zamindar, Babu Banamali Rai, has failed to trace this animal, though he has killed some eight or nine others. The greatest scare prevails among the villagers.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 16th, 1894.

39. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 16th April says that the admirers of the late Rai Bankim Chandra Chatterji, Bahadur, should not leave the task of preserving his memory in the hands of the Higher Training Society. The Hindu community has no sympathy with that society, and many of the Hindu friends of the late Bankim Babu felt aggrieved at his becoming a member of it. The Hindus were not anxious to hear the praises of the deceased from an out-and-out Brahmo like Babu Pratap Chandra Mazumdar, nor do they wish that the duty of erecting a memorial in honour of the deceased should fall into the hands of Babu Pratap Chandra and his party. It is the writer's conviction that the memorial business will collapse if it is left in their hands.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK,
Second fortnight of
Chaitra.

40. The *Paridarshak* for the 2nd fortnight of Chaitra says that if Mr. O'Brien, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, really goes on leave, as it is rumoured that he will shortly do, the Chief Commissioner should appoint a fit person to officiate in his place. The Deputy Commissionership of Sylhet is a very responsible post, and it is not advisable to appoint to it a civilian who has not passed his novitiate. The Government of Assam has not certainly forgotten how very incompetent both Mr. Lee and Mr. Clarke proved for the post. In Assam able men like Mr. O'Brien or Mr. Greaves are, no doubt, rare. But if a competent man is not available in Assam, the Chief Commissioner can ask for the services of a competent man from Bengal.

PARIDARSHAK.

41. The same paper says that the charges contained in the petition submitted to the Judge of Sylhet by Babus Rasamay Chaudhuri and Sukhamay Chaudhuri, two respectable zamindars of Sylhet, against Nistaran Babu, the Munsif of Sunamganj, are serious enough to deprive any judicial officer of public respect. If Nistaran Babu has any self-respect, he ought of his own motion to leave the station without delay.

PARIDARSHAK.

42. A correspondent of the same paper says that Babu Chandi Charan Chatterji, a clerk in the Income-tax office of Sunamganj, is a most notorious character. He was twice charged with bribery, but fortunately escaped punishment on both occasions. And this has emboldened him. Under various guises, such as Sub-Registrar, Income-tax collector, &c., he induces poor people to give him money. He has now grown so bold that he does not hesitate to take bribes in the name of *hakims*. Although a clerk on a monthly pay of Rs. 25 only, he has been able to make himself, by these abominable means, master of about eight or ten thousand rupees which he lends out at usurious interest. In January last, while at Rasulganj, to have one of his debtors arrested, he personated as an Income-tax

assessor and extorted much money from the poor illiterate shop-keepers by threatening them with increased assessments. It is difficult to imagine how he has been allowed to retain the post which he holds under Government.

43. The same paper publishes the following:—

To

The Editor, *Paridarshak*, Sylhet.

Sir,

We thank you most sincerely for the disclosure you have made as regards the conduct of the Head Clerk of our Deputy Commissioner's office in filling up vacancies occurring in that office. It may seem strange that there was no protest from the employes whose claims were overlooked with a view to patronise Prasanna Babu's relations, but experience shows that representations in such cases cause more harm than good, and I am sure that the sufferers have acted wisely by keeping silence. Our obligations to you are therefore the greater, and we trust you will continue to keep up the agitation against the sufferers who have no claim to appointments in Assam. If you will take a census of the Government employes in the different departments of the Government, viz., the Civil and Criminal Courts, the Telegraph Department, and notoriously the Public Works Department, Education and the Postal Departments, you will at once see that 90 per cent. of the employes are recruited from Bengal, and that majority of these are hardly fit for the fat pay they enjoy. If I remember rightly, the Chief Commissioner of Assam lately collected statistics of clerks and others, but they have probably been shelved, and will never see the light again. You will, Mr. Editor, do a yeoman's service to Sylhet if you will ask for a copy of these statistics and publish them in the *Paridarshak* for general information. It is my firm conviction that this statement will shew that all the higher posts in an office are monopolised by men from Bengal, a few natives of the soil holding subordinate posts only. I have to tell you, with shame, that even our much revered Durga Kumar Babu could not find a Sylhet graduate to fill up the 2nd mastership of Sylhet zilla school! Indeed, the tea-planter does not find a labourer locally, and has the necessity for Act I of 1882, and a Bengali Head clerk, Munsif or Magistrate does not find a Sylhet man intelligent or educated enough for a post under his disposal, and may, perhaps, be required in near future to move the local Government for a law for recruitment of clerks from Bengal!

AN ANTI-NEPOTIST.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 21st April 1894.

PARIDARSHAK,
Second Fortnight of
Chaitra.

